

COMPOSERS AS WITS

PECULIARITIES OF THE GREAT MASTERS OF MUSIC.

They Were Not, as a General Rule, Amiable Critics of Each Other. Comments That Were Usually Cautious and Frequently Savagely Severe.

Never surely was composer more witty than the master who gave us an immortal setting of "William Tell." Rossini's whimsicality extended even to his birthday. Having been born in leap year, on Feb. 29, he had a birthday only once in four years, and when he was seventy-two he facetiously invited his friends to celebrate his eighteenth birthday. Some of the best specimens of his wit were shown in connection with brother composers. "You know," he said one day, speaking to a friend, "you know what pretty dance tunes Anber has always written." Auber being as likely to write dance tunes as Rossini was to write a sermon. The maestro seldom went to the opera or to any place of amusement, but he could not resist the temptation of hearing one of Wagner's works. It was "Tannhauser." Afterward, when asked to give his opinion of the opera, he said, "It is too important and too elaborate a work to be judged after a single hearing; but, so far as I am concerned, I shall not give it a second."

Rossini's witticisms indeed bubbled forth at all times and under all circumstances. On one occasion a gentleman called upon him to enlist his aid in procuring for him an engagement at the opera. He was a drummer and had taken the precaution to bring his instrument. Rossini said he would hear him "play," and it was decided that he should show off in the overture to "Semiramide." The very first bar of the overture contains a tremolo for the drum, and when this had been performed the player remarked: "Now I have a rest of seventy-eight bars. These, of course, I will skip." This was too good a chance to be lost. "Oh, no," said the composer. "By all means count the seventy-eight bars. I particularly wish to hear those."

Some of these anecdotes of Rossini remind us that composers, as a rule, have not figured amiably as critics of each other. Handel swore that Gluck knew no more about counterpoint than his cook. Weber pronounced Beethoven a madman, and Haydn said of a brother musician that "he played the fiddle like a hog." Liszt was particularly severe upon fellow artists. Some one was once playing to him a composition he evidently did not care for. "What is that?" he asked. "It is Bennett's 'Maid of Orleans' sonata," was the reply. "Ah," said the virtuoso, "what a pity that the original manuscript did not meet with the same fate as Joan!" But perhaps better than this was the opinion of Wagner expressed by Offenbach. Wagner had just published his "Rienzi," and off went a copy to Offenbach, with a request that he would say what he thought of it. Now, Offenbach had previously read some of Wagner's poems and had made fun of them, a circumstance well known to Wagner. After three weeks the score of "Rienzi" was returned to its composer with a slip on which was written: "Dear Wagner, your music is trash. Stick to poetry." This of course enraged Wagner greatly, and some months later he was out with one of his celebrated brochures denouncing the Jews. It was a fine opportunity for revenge, Offenbach being an Israelite, and the brochure was in the hands of Offenbach in no time. Two days elapsed, and Wagner had the pamphlet back. When he opened it the front page: "Dear Wagner, your brochure is rot. Stick to music."

Haydn was a great admirer of the fair sex, and some of his prettiest things were said about women. One specimen must suffice. The celebrated Mrs. Billington was a great friend of his, and Sir Joshua Reynolds had painted her portrait. Haydn went to see the picture when it was finished. "Yes," he said to the artist, "it is very good. But you painted Mrs. Billington listening to the angels, whereas the angels should be listening to her."

Berlioz, the eminent French composer, had a caustic wit. He could not endure Bach, and he used to call Handel "a big hog," a "musician of the stomach." For this he was paid out by Mendelssohn, who declared that after touching a score of Berlioz soap and water were necessary. Berlioz, however, had his musical hero, and that hero was Beethoven. To be Beethoven irreverently and his ire was kindled. There is a certain passage for the double basses in one of the master's scores which was at one time believed to be almost impossible of execution. Now, Habeneck conducted a performance of this work in Paris and gave the passage in question to the cellos. Berlioz, who was present, met Habeneck soon after and asked him when he meant to give the passage as Beethoven intended it to be given. "Never as long as I live," said Habeneck. "Well, we'll wait," replied Berlioz. "Don't let it be long."

Speaking of Beethoven, that master's humor was rather of the grim kind, resembling more the satire of Carlyle than anything else. The composer's brother had a little property of his own and was very proud of it. One day he called on Beethoven and left a card inscribed "Johann Van Beethoven, Land Proprietor." Next day he had it returned to him, written on the back, "L. Van Beethoven, Brain Proprietor." —Chambers' Journal.

Newton.

Newton was so small and frail at birth that his life was despaired of. He lived, however, to be eighty-five, which was also Voltaire's age.

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The Owl That Jarred the Washington Monument.

In one of the many glass cases in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington is a stuffed owl. This particular owl is the one, in the words of the late President Hayes, "that jarred the Washington monument," and therein lies the story.

During Centennial year congress resolved to provide the necessary funds for the completion of the monument, which up to that time had been worked at only while the several smaller appropriations lasted. It was discovered, however, that the original foundation was likely to prove incapable of sustaining the enormous weight of marble necessary for carrying the shaft 550 feet above terra firma. A new foundation was therefore needed, and architects thought a solid concrete bed 100 feet square and nearly fourteen feet in thickness would accomplish the strengthening desired.

During the operation of replacing the old foundation it was considered expedient to provide means for noting carefully the slightest vibration of the walls, lest the monument might be in danger of collapsing. Accordingly a heavy weight was suspended by a stout thread from the apex to a pair of thick stumps located in the base, so that no chance drafts of air would be likely to sway the weight. An ingenious contrivance was so attached to the weight that the slightest vibration of the shaft would be faithfully recorded, and its insecurity would at once be an established fact.

One morning a few months after these careful precautions had been taken there was a great commotion among the workmen. A complete record of numerous perturbations and tremblings had been written on the index, showing conclusively that the mammoth obelisk had jarred, swayed and settled during the night. Scientific heads were dubiously shaken. After much persuasion one of the men finally consented to go to the top and examine into the cause. The astonishing report came into the midst of the anxious throng below that an owl in seeking shelter in the lofty tower had somehow managed to catch its wings in the thread and was still hanging there, suspended to the interior of the monument, and the innumerable flappings and struggles of his owlish had all been recorded by the index as testimony against the stability of plumb laid marble blocks and solid concrete.

DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

For Governor—S. W. Hager.
For Lieut.-Governor—South Trimble.
For Attorney-General—J. K. Hendrick.
For Superintendent of Public Instruction—E. A. Gullion.
For Commissioner of Agriculture—J. W. Newman.
For Secretary of State—Hubert Vreeland.
For Auditor—Henry Bosworth.
For Treasurer—Ruby Laffoon.
For Clerk Court of Appeals—John B. Chenault.
For United States Senator—J. C. W. Beckham.

Dangers of Defective Plumbing!

Defective plumbing permits the entrance into the house of sewer gas bearing germs of contagious disease to which the human system readily succumbs. Sewer gas is not necessarily generated in the sewer, but is frequently created in the plumbing system within the home and enters the apartments through defective fixtures. If in doubt consult us regarding the piping and repairing defective fixtures with "STANDARD" Porcelain Enamelled Ware, acknowledged as the best sanitary equipment.

J. J. CONNELLY, Plumber.
TELEPHONE 180.

Flower Agency Changes Hands.

Mr. Bruce Holladay, our popular groceryman, has purchased of C. T. Kenney the agency of Honaker, the florist, for Paris. Mr. Kenney has represented this firm for years in Paris and has given general satisfaction with his flowers, and could not be succeeded by a more popular gentleman than Bruce Holladay. Mr. Holladay in vites his friends and Mr. Kenney's to give him a call.

Free Reclining Chair Cars.

The Southern Railway has inaugurated free reclining chair car service between Louisville and Evansville on their fast through trains leaving Louisville at 7:30 a. m. and 5 p. m. daily, and running solid to Evansville, without change. This line also operates free reclining chair cars on night Lexington and Danville to St. Louis, also Pullman Sleeper through from Danville to St. Louis. The Southern Railway is 23 miles the shortest from Louisville to Nashville and forty-three

"Dandy Dixie" Minstrels.

At the recent Old Kentucky "Home Comers" gathering at Louisville, Ky., great reverence was paid to the memory of Stephen C. Foster, author of "My Old Kentucky Home." The people of the State whose name his gift of song has immortalized, rendered fitting tribute to his memory and unveiled the model of a Foster statue that is to adorn the new State Capitol of Kentucky.

Thousands of children, headed by bands which continuously played Foster's music, marched to the hall, where the model of the statue which is to be erected by their contributions, was unveiled. Within the hall twenty thousand persons were crowded to honor Foster. They cheered every mention of the rendition of his music, and showed the descendants of Foster who were present both in word and deed a keen and full appreciation of what his genius had wrought for Kentucky.

It would tax the ability of the most accomplished mathematician to estimate how many times that week the music of "My Old Kentucky Home" was heard in Louisville. Delegation after delegation from abroad has trooped through the streets behind bands that have informed everybody within hearing "The Sun Shines Bright in My Old Kentucky Home." The orchestras in the hotels and cafes imparted the same intelligence every few minutes, and people sung and hummed it in the streets. This beautiful ballad as well as all the old levee plantation song, together with the airs of all national anthems, and the class songs of all the leading universities, will be rendered in the great show which the "Dandy Dixie Minstrels" will bring. Paris Grand, Friday, December 21.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of catarrh that can not be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm.

WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Take Halls Family Pills for constipation. 24nov

PILES Dr. Williams' Indian Pile Ointment will cure Blind, Bleeding and Itching Piles. It absorbs the tumors, allays the itching at once, acts as a poultice, gives instant relief. Dr. Williams' Indian Pile Ointment is prepared for Piles and Itching of the private parts. Every box is warranted. By druggists, by mail on receipt of price, 50 cents and \$1.00. WILLIAMS MANUFACTURING CO., Props., Cleveland, Ohio.

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A tale of horror was told by marks of human blood in the home of J. W. Williams, a well known merchant of Bac, Ky. He writes: "Twenty years ago I severe hemorrhages of the lungs, and was near death when I began taking Dr. King's New Discovery. It completely cured me and I have remained well ever since." It cures hemorrhages, Chronic coughs, settled colds and Bronchitis, and is the only known cure for weak lungs. Every bottle guaranteed by Oberdorfer, the druggist. 50c and \$1. Trial bottle free. oct

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"When I was a druggist at Livonia, Mo.," writes T. J. Dwyer, now of Graysville, Mo., "three of my customers were permanently cured of consumption by Dr. King's New Discovery, and are well and strong today. One was trying to sell his property and move to Arizona, but after using New Discovery a short time he found it unnecessary to do so. I regard Dr. King's New Discovery as the most wonderful medicine in existence." Surest cough and cold cure and throat and lung healer. Guaranteed by Oberdorfer, the druggist. 50c and 1.00. Trial bottle free. nov

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